

MERCHANTS VOTE FOR REFERENDUM ON PROHIBITION

Retailers' Association Asks
that Question Be Submitted
to Residents.

RESOLUTION MODIFIED

Topham Objects to Original
Draft, Which Deplored
"Dry" City Proposition.

DEFENSE OF LIQUOR OMITTED

M. D. Rosenberg Preaches Against
Doctrine of "Thou Shalt Not."
Temperance Appeals Read.

The Retail Merchants' Association, of the District, meeting in special session at the New Willard last night, adopted a resolution protesting against the passage of prohibition laws for the District with out the citizens first being given an opportunity to vote on the question. The resolution was adopted by a two-third majority of the fifty members who attended the session.

The resolution, which was submitted by M. A. Leese, is as follows:

"We submit that it is unfair and inequitable for the Congress of the United States to attempt to pass a law affecting prohibition or other fundamentals of the body politic of this community without first giving the citizens of the District of Columbia the right—which should be the privilege of every American citizen—to vote by referendum or other legal and effective form as to whether they desire a change in this or other laws of such vital interests to the citizens thereof."

Letters were read from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Pastors' Federation of the District, and the Anti-Saloon League, protesting against the adoption of anti-prohibition resolutions.

The original resolution as introduced by Mr. Reese, declared that the passage of prohibition laws for the District would destroy about 300 business establishments and throw thousands of persons out of employment. It also asserted that it would destroy Washington as a city of entertainment and a meeting place of conventions and asked that if Congress would not grant the right of referendum, the passage of the Sheppard bill be deferred until the question of national prohibition had been settled by Congress.

Topham Offers Protest.

Holding that it would provoke a storm of adverse criticism George Topham, president of the board of governors, protested against the passage of the resolution. On his protest the resolution finally was reduced simply to the question of a referendum.

In urging the passage of the resolution, M. D. Rosenberg declared that his spirit of Americanism revolted against any one saying "Thou shalt not." He declared that the members of Congress have no right to hold up their hands to the people of the District and say "Thou shalt not." Continuing he said:

"Congress is right in placing certain restrictions upon the liquor traffic, but though I have traveled through Europe and through the United States I know of no city where such legislation is less needed than in Washington."

A. Wade Wells, general manager of the Bradford Detective Agency, told the members that the police of Washington, though the most efficient in the United States, would not be able to enforce such laws as proposed by the Sheppard bill.

An official of the organization stated after the meeting that there are no liquor men or firms connected with the association.

MISSION SUCCESS, SAYS HOUSE.

Wilson's Embassy Pleased with Outcome of His Trip.

Paris, Feb. 7.—When asked today if he considered his European mission a success, Col. E. M. House, special diplomatic agent of President Wilson, replied:

"I am entirely satisfied."
Col. House will go to London tomorrow where he will again confer with members of the British Cabinet before sailing for New York, on the liner Rotterdam, on February 13.

NEW GAS MACHINE USED.

Germans on West Front Reported to Have Made Improvements.

Amsterdam, Feb. 7.—A new machine for the transmission of poison gases has just been devised and installed in the trenches on the west front by the Germans. Improvements also have been made in the artillery which makes special training necessary for the gunners.

It is believed that the Germans are waiting a strong east wind before beginning an offensive with clouds of poison gases from their new apparatus.

No German Advance, He Says.

Paris, Feb. 7.—The Saloniki correspondent of the Temps sent a dispatch this afternoon stating that rumors of an impending German-Bulgarian offensive are untrue.

"Fighting Prince" Oscar Is Reported Wounded

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
Berlin (via London), Feb. 7.—It is officially stated that Prince Oscar of Prussia, the Kaiser's fifth son, has been slightly wounded in the head and in the upper part of one thigh by shell splinters.

Prince Oscar's wounds were received on the battlefield in the eastern theater of war.

Prince Oscar is known as the "Fighting Prince." He was stricken with an affection of the heart in September, 1914, at Verdun, where he led a column of troops against Turkish sharpshooters.

SEA OF BLOOD INGULFS HIM

Chicago Physician Saves Him-
self from Death by Cling-
ing to Plank.

GOING TO AID RED CROSS WHEN SHIP STRIKES MINE

Bodies Slashed by Propeller Stain
Adriatic Bright Crimson—Sees
Nurse Die that Way.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Chicago, Feb. 7.—For three hours of untold horror Dr. Edward Cunat, of this city, clung to a plank in a sea dyed with human blood after the Italian steamer Brindisi went down in the Adriatic Sea on January 6 last. Then he was picked up by the Italian steamship Clitta de Barri and put back to Brindisi, Italy.

Sunday the physician returned here and told the story of a vain attempt of the Frothingham unit of the American Red Cross, to which he belonged, to go to the aid of eleven other physicians and nurses who are laboring among 1,500,000 Serbian and Montenegrin refugees in Montenegro.

Dr. Cunat's unit was composed of two physicians, two nurses and an orderly. They were Dr. George Guicha and Dr. Cunat, Miss Marie Lamos and Miss Stephanie E. Hampl, the nurses, and Frank Synceck, the orderly, all of Chicago, except Miss Hampl, who was from New York.

With them they carried 600,000 pounds of foodstuffs, much clothing, medical supplies and \$10,000 in gold, all of which was lost with the Brindisi.

"It was about 6 o'clock in the morning of January 6 when the Brindisi struck the mine," said Dr. Cunat. "The ship sank very rapidly after the shock. Many of those in the water were drawn into the swirl of the propeller, which was revolving at high speed. Their bodies were fairly ground to bits, and the sea was red with their blood."
"I saw Miss Hampl, the nurse from New York, die like that, and I could not raise a hand to save her."

2,000 Are Slain In Russ Attack

Fighting in Uszieczk Region
Results in Heavy Teuton
Losses, Is Report.

Petrograd, Feb. 7.—The recent fighting in the region of Uszieczk and on the Russian southern front was most desperate and sanguinary. The Russians were almost killed by their work with the bayonet, while the Teutons usually held out until their losses exceeded one-third of their strength.

On the right flank, 800 bodies were left near the wire entanglements. The Teuton losses in a single engagement amounted to 2,000 killed.

In the Poliese district, mounted Russian guerrillas effected a daring nocturnal raid on the transports accumulated around Pinsk.

Lying in ambush until the camp fires of the Teutons had been extinguished and the majority of the troops were asleep, the guerrillas disposed of the sentries and hurled incendiary bombs among the wagons, causing a panic and heavy losses in material. The guerrillas escaped unscathed.

SCHATCHEN FAILS; KILLS SELF.

Girl Leaps from Window Because
She Can't Find Husband.

New York, Feb. 7.—Despairing of ever finding a husband conforming to her ideals, Gussie Cohen, twenty-four years old, committed suicide today by jumping from the fifth floor of a tenement house in Henry street.

At her request she was introduced to four men by a schatchen. She declined all of them.

New Peace Move Launched.

Stockholm, Feb. 7.—A new world peace movement has just been launched here. Inspired by the Ford expedition, Socialists in the Swedish Parliament are interpellating the government as to whether it is possible to arrange a peace conference of neutral nations for the purpose of founding a permanent court of international arbitration.

HOUSE PASSES DEFENSE BILLS UNANIMOUSLY

Clark and Mann Both Urge
Speeding Up of Battleship
Construction.

PACIFISTS DUCK VOTE

"Uncle Joe" Cannon Asks As-
surance that Politics Cut
No Figure in Program.

WILL ENLARGE NAVAL ACADEMY

Speaker Wants Biggest Guns Obtain-
able Placed on U. S. Ships, He
Declares from Floor.

In a maelstrom of excited debate that marked the passage of two National defense bills—the first of the session—by the House yesterday, Speaker Champ Clark took the floor to declare his vigorous support of necessary preparedness. He created a sensation when he demanded the reasons for the backwardness of the United States in naval construction.

Later the Speaker outlined part of his preparedness creed, embracing the education of more officers at West Point and Annapolis, a skeletonized army organization for training purposes and short term enlistments to build up an adequate reserve.

From the other side of the chamber, Republican Leader Mann demanded that preparedness legislation be "speeded up," and that preparations be made for defense against "any foreign nation."

All the big guns of the House, with the exception of Democratic Leader Kitchin, who remained silent, declared in favor of adequate national defense.

National defense forces made a clean sweep with the following results:

The bill making available \$500,000 for battleship building equipment at Mare Island Navy Yard and \$100,000 for similar purposes at New York Navy Yard passed without a dissenting voice.

The bill increasing from 1,350 to 1,700 the cadets at Annapolis passed by a vote of 123 to 8.

The anti-preparedness faction confessed its weakness by avoiding record vote on both bills.

Speaker Clark led the fight for both bills.

Cannon Sees Politics.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon declared for preparedness but elicited a sharp rebuke from Representative Fitzgerald of New York, when he asked if the administration was using it for "campaign purposes."

Speaker Clark cleared the way for the navy yard soon as the House met. The bill got under way in a storm of confused oratory, and Speaker Clark launched himself into the flood of talk soon after the deluge began.

"How is it that in England they can build a battleship so much quicker than we do?" he demanded in a voice that rose above the confusion.

"Because they take the money," answered Representative Butler.

Representative Butler was badgered by a dozen members of the House at a time. At times the tumult became incoherent. In the midst of one period of excitement Representative Fitzgerald, of New York, clamored for the Pennsylvania member to yield.

"To whom does the gentleman yield?"

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.

IMMENSE ZEPPELINS USED IN LAST RAID

Paris Declares New Type Can Carry
Ton and a Half of Explosives.

Besides Cannon.

Paris, Feb. 7.—Zeppelin airships which took part in the latest raid on England are of an enormous new type much larger than any ever before seen.

The Martin, in an article today, gives the specifications of the new super-Zeppelins. These aerial monsters have a volume of 32,000 cubic metres each and instead of being cigar-shaped, have the form of a huge fish. The Zeppelins are driven by eight 200-horse power motors and are capable of a speed of 75 miles an hour. The ordinary speed of the big balloons is 65 miles an hour.

The air ships are equipped with three propellers each and are covered with a scientific aluminum paint which renders them as nearly invisible as possible.

The armament consists of several small cannons, machine guns and about a ton and a half of explosives.

Famine of Half Pennies.

London, Feb. 7.—England is suffering a famine of half pennies, owing to the enormously increased demand for them. It is suggested by bankers that the government issue a new nickel coin of the value of a cent and a half.

Bribery of Bulgars Charged.

Rome, Feb. 7.—The Bulgarian minister of justice has requested from the chamber of deputies authority to proceed against thirteen of its members on a charge of accepting bribes from the entente powers, according to Sofia advices.

Plot to Wreck Welland Canal Uncovered in New York City

Conspiracies Alleged to Have Been Fomented in the United
States and Plans Laid for Attack on Canada from
This Side—War Stores Purchased.

Special to The Washington Herald.

New York, Feb. 7.—Alarming disclosures of the extent of the German conspiracies against Canada carried on in the United States have been made today following the activities of the Canadian secret service agents, who have been at work in this city and other points throughout the country. Among the findings which have been forwarded to the Canadian government are:

German agents have secretly purchased two hundred thousand Mauser rifles and surreptitiously shipped them to the Canadian border.

In the guise of Belgian refugees and of Scandinavian immigrants scores of German army officers have arrived here from neutral ports with the object of heading an armed force for the invasion of Canada.

The destruction of the Welland Canal and the crippling thereby of the shipping of \$600,000,000 of Canadian wheat to the allies is the main object of this secret movement.

Buy Munition Stores.
One-third of the output of American munition plants has been purchased by German agents masquerading as representatives of the allies, and this vast supply of munitions, mainly consisting of rifles, has been stored in secret.

The destruction of the Canadian Parliament Building last week and the attempted destruction of munition plants are the work of sympathizers with Germany.

One Canadian authority said today that the attempted raid on Canada was to be made within two months.

The information obtained here has been forwarded to Gen. Sir Sam Hughes, the Canadian War Secretary, and to Col. Percy Herwood, chief of the Canadian Secret Service at Ottawa, with the result that extraordinary precautions have been taken to safeguard the Welland Canal and other border points. Every foot of the waterway is patrolled day and night.

Supplies Not Shipped.
The agent here of a manufacturing concern which is supplying large quantities of munitions to the allies says more than 30 per cent of the output of the concern has been delivered in this city for months, but no part of it has as yet been shipped to England or France. The boxes of munitions were called for at the freight stations and carried away to secret storage houses.

"There is no doubt that large quantities of arms and ammunition have been purchased here by the German government through its secret agents," said this informant, "and that they will be ready for use when needed. These contracts were presumably made with authorized agents of the allies, and evidence shows that fictitious names were employed in order to divert suspicion. Checks drawn upon large German banks throughout the country pointed to the conclusion that certain men who were supposed to be acting for the allies were in fact acting in the interests of the German government. As none of these munitions have been shipped to Germany it would be interesting to know where these war supplies are now located."

WOMAN KILLS HER MINISTER

Wife of Wealthy Texas Farmer
Fires Four Bullets, One
Hitting Boy.

DYING CLERGYMAN BEGS FOR TALK WITH HIS WIFE

Slayer Surrenders to Police—Tragedy
Declared Result of Gossip Alleged
Circulated by Divine.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Sherman, Tex., Feb. 7.—Mrs. Annie Faust, wife of a wealthy farmer, shot and killed Rev. J. M. Cagle, a Baptist minister, in the public square this afternoon. She then sought a policeman and surrendered herself.

"I did it because he slandered me," was the only explanation she would make.

Four bullets struck Cagle, all entering his chest. A wild shot wounded an elevator boy in a nearby building.

"Take me to my wife. I have but a few minutes to live, and I don't want to die until I have talked to her," gasped Cagle as he lay in the street.

He died before his wife could reach him.

Influential friends tonight sought bail for Mrs. Faust. They declared she will never be brought to trial.

A few days ago Mrs. Faust's brother-in-law quarreled with Cagle as a result of reports that the clergyman had been gossiping about the woman.

\$300,000 FOR COLLEGES.

Rockefeller Board Announces New
Educational Gifts.

New York, Feb. 7.—The General Board which handles John D. Rockefeller's gifts to colleges, announces the following appropriations:

Maryville College, Tennessee, \$75,000; Western College for Women, Oxford, \$100,000.

Wilwaukee-Downer College for Women, \$100,000.

The board has also appropriated \$35,000 to assist consolidated rural schools in building homes for teachers in connection with the schools.

Two Trainmen Killed.

Vincennes, Ind., Feb. 7.—Two trainmen were killed when the engine and tender of a Big Four passenger train plunged into the Wabash River, between Vincennes and St. Francisville.

Greece Demands Indemnity.

London, Feb. 7.—A Central News dispatch from Rome says that Greece has presented Germany with a demand for indemnity for the recent bombardment of Saloniki from the air.

Bulgar King to Visit Kaiser.

Berlin, Feb. 7.—The Vossische Zeitung states that King Ferdinand of Bulgaria will shortly come to Germany to visit the Kaiser.

KITCHENER OUT AS WAR LORD, LONDON HEARS

Sir William Robertson Sched-
uled to Direct England's
Campaign in Future.

TO HAVE WIDE POWERS

Lord Derby Prominently Men-
tioned as Next Secretary
for War.

KING MEETS WITH ADVISORS

New Chief Rose from Ranks to Be
Chief-of-Staff—Won Way by
Distinguished Bravery.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Feb. 7.—Great Britain's war operations soon will be under the active direction of Sir William Robertson, now chief of staff, according to widespread rumors tonight.

London generally accepts the report that Earl Kitchener will be superseded as Secretary for War by a civilian. The name of Lord Derby is prominently mentioned in this connection.

The rumors were given additional color following official announcement that the King today received in audience, Premier Asquith, Sir Henry Jackson and Maj. Gen. Charles Edward Caldwell, all prominent factors in Britain's military policy.

Sweeping Changes Expected.

Premier Asquith is president of the Imperial Defense Committee; Gen. Caldwell is director of Military Intelligence, and Sir Henry Jackson is First Sea Lord. It is generally taken for granted that sweeping changes soon will be announced. It is recalled that Earl Kitchener recently was closeted with the King in secret conference.

The Daily Sketch says Sir William Robertson will be given powers that will insure him freedom from interference, except from the cabinet as a whole. It adds that Earl Kitchener will undertake duties of a highly responsible character elsewhere.

Some believe this portends the departure of the present secretary for war for Saloniki, where immense operations are impending, or for the field of operations even further east.

Provisions already have been made for the grant of widely extended powers to Robertson by an order in council directing that he "be responsible for issuing all orders of the government in regard to military operations."

Radical Change Likely.

Hitherto these orders have been issued by the secretary for war. The order in council is clearly a preparation for the separation of the administrative and executive functions of the war secretary.

Sir William Robertson, K. C. V. O., K. C. B., B. S. O., literally rose from the ranks to chief of staff. He is well known to the army itself, but the outside world knows little of him. He won his position by brave and distinguished work in the Indian and South African campaigns.

Sir William Robertson went into France with the British expeditionary force as quartermaster general. He was made chief of staff in September, 1915.

BELEAGUERED BRITISH TROOPS SAID STARVING

Turkish Reports State Condition of
Men in Kut el Amara Is
Precarious.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Constantinople, Feb. 7.—British troops besieged in the Mesopotamian town of Kut el Amara by Turkish forces are short of food and ammunition and will be compelled to surrender very soon, according to official advices received by the Turkish war office.

A dispatch from Bagdad states that a wireless message from the commander of the beleaguered troops, sent to the relief expedition that has tried in vain to reach Kut el Amara, appealed frantically for assistance, saying that the British force was on the verge of starvation, and that the supply of ammunition available would last for only a week.

Dysentery and typhus fever are said to have caused terrible havoc among the English soldiers, five temporary hospitals being crowded with the sufferers.

WOMAN'S TRIAL POSTPONED.

Mrs. Margaret Sanger to Face Court
on February 14.

New York, Feb. 7.—The trial of Mrs. Margaret Sanger, charged with sending through the mails writing regarding birth control alleged to be obscene, was postponed until February 14. The case came before Judge Clayton in the United States District Court today.

Mrs. Sanger was not in court, but twenty of her friends were present, expecting the trial to go on.

\$200,000 Loss by Fire.

Buffalo, Feb. 7.—Fire which started in the plant of the Model Incubator Company, destroyed that building and the adjoining Globe Pattern Works and Buffalo Pasteboard Box Company tonight. The damage is estimated at \$200,000.

Picric Acid Plant Is Wrecked by Explosion

Special to The Washington Herald.
Emporium, Pa., Feb. 7.—A mysterious explosion destroyed the picric acid plant of the Aetna Explosive Company here this evening and for a time threatened the entire plant.

In buildings nearby the burning structure were stored thousands of pounds of gun cotton and smokeless powder. No lives were lost.

Three other explosions closely followed the first.

GERMAN NOTE WAITS ACTION

Lansing Has Had Lusitania
Reply Four Days, but Has
Not Seen Wilson.

EXECUTIVE WAS TOO TIRED TO CONSIDER IT ON FRIDAY

German Reply Will Be Talked Over
by Cabinet Today—U. S. Does
Not Increase Demands.

Official Washington was frankly puzzled yesterday by the unaccountable delay of the administration in taking up for consideration the latest German proposals for settlement of the Lusitania case. President Wilson and Secretary Lansing were to have met at the White House to discuss the subject, but postponed their conference until today, when the full cabinet probably will consider the case.

Although Count von Bernstorff delivered the communication from Berlin to Secretary Lansing last Friday—four days ago—Mr. Lansing said last night he had not seen the President to discuss the subject since receiving the proposals.

President Wilson returned Friday afternoon from his Western trip. It was announced Friday that he was tired from his trip and would not see the Secretary that night. On Saturday the President kept holiday hours, and in the afternoon played his usual game of golf. The meeting set for that day did not take place. On Sunday the President attended church and motored after church and in the afternoon.

The only development yesterday affecting the case was a declaration by Secretary Lansing characterizing as "utterly false" a statement attributed to Dr. Zimmerman, German undersecretary for foreign affairs, that the United States had increased its demands.

"This government has not increased its demands in the Lusitania case over the former demands in the notes of May 12, June 3 and July 21. I doubt very much that Dr. Zimmerman made such a statement, as he must know it is utterly false," said the Wilson premier.

Villa Threatens All Americans

Rebel Leader Declares War to
Death on All Who
Cross Path.

Special to The Washington Herald.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 7.—Francisco Villa has declared war to the death against all Americans in Mexico. He has vowed to kill all citizens of the United States who fall into his power.

This threat was made by the rebel leader to a group of Mexican miners at Pielague, Chihuahua, last week.

"I will kill every d— American I lay my hands on,"

News of Villa's declaration of hostility was taken to Chihuahua City on Friday by Mexicans who walked forty miles to warn the American colony in that town and was brought here early today by passengers on the first train from the interior of Mexico that has reached the border in eight days.

These passengers also brought a report that has reached Chihuahua City that German agents are backing Villa in his warfare against the Carranza government.

GASOLINE UP AGAIN.

Boost of One Cent a Gallon Record-
ed in New York.

New York, Feb. 7.—Gasoline scored another rise today in its upward flight. The price of all grades except machine gasoline was advanced 1 cent a gallon.

The new schedule is 23 cents a gallon for motor gasoline to garages, and whatever the consumer will pay at the retail figure.

Bride and Groom Die in Fire.

Portland, Me., Feb. 7.—Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Gove, a bridal couple, were burned to death today in a three-story lodging house. Twelve men and women were rescued by ladders. Mrs. Gove lost her life in an attempt to save her husband.

Fire Sweeps North Adams, Mass.

North Adams, Mass., Feb. 7.—Many people were driven to the streets in their night clothes when fire swept through the business section early today. The flames raged for nearly four hours. The loss was \$100,000.

Paper Published in Trenches.

London, Feb. 7.—Copies have just been received here of the "Twentieth Gazette," a newspaper, printed "somewhere in France" by members of the Twentieth Canadian Regiment. This trench newspaper is a rare curiosity.

Quakers Will Not Fight.

London, Feb. 7.—Practically all of the members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) have given notice that they will seek exemption from compulsory military service under the clause covering "conscientious objectors."

BIG GUN DUEL IS PRELUDE TO GERMAN DRIVE

For Forty-eight Hours Heavy
Artillery Roars All Along
Western Battle Front.